



# United States Department of the Interior

IN REPLY REFER TO

3809  
(U-058)

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Sevier River Resource Area  
PO Box 705  
Richfield, Utah 84701

March 31, 1981

Mr. J.B. Carter  
Georgia-Pacific Corporation  
Sigurd, Utah 84657

Dear Mr. Carter:

An environmental assessment has been completed for the areas included in your "Plan of Operations" submitted February 26, 1981 (BLM serial number UT-056-2P). Our field surveys for this assessment revealed the presence of a plant species, Townsendia aprica, on three of the mining claims identified in your "Plan". This plant has been proposed for inclusion on the Federal List of Threatened and Endangered Plants and, therefore, must be protected. Also, we feel that if the seed mixture listed on your "Plan" for revegetation were changed somewhat the chances of seed germination would increase. We have included our recommended seed mixture.

We believe the reclamation procedures and revegetation plan you submitted were adequate. Because of the above findings, however, we recommend the following items and changes be added to better meet the reclamation requirements contained in the Surface Management Regulations (43 CFR Part 3809):

1. All litter, waste and debris will be disposed of in the nearest sanitary landfill site.
2. During the fall months, disturbed areas will be seeded with the following seed mix at the rate of 12 pounds per acre:

Indian Ricegrass ( <i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i> )	31b/ac
Western wheatgrass ( <i>Agropyron smithii</i> )	3
Winterfat ( <i>Eurotia lanata</i> )	3
Birchleaf Mtn. Mahogany ( <i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> )	3

TOTAL 121b/ac

The seed will be range drilled to a depth not to exceed one-half inch. In areas where drill seeding is not practical, the seed shall be broadcast and dragged by appropriate means to effectively cover the seed with soil. All seed will be furnished by Georgia-Pacific Corporation.

3. Georgia-Pacific Corporation will, prior to surface disturbing activities, consult with BLM concerning their specific mining plans on the Gabus Claim #1, and for Western Claims #15 and #17. These claims contain populations of Townsendia aprica, which is a threatened and endangered plant that must be protected to prevent its destruction through any surface disturbing activities.

Members of my staff will be available to identify and flag the occurrence of these plant species so as to aid in the development of your mining plans on these claims.

If you can accept these additions and changes to your "Plan of Operations", it will be considered approved, as amended. All future mining activities on your unpatented claims should then be conducted in accordance with your amended "Plan", and in accordance with the reclamation requirements contained in 43 CFR 3809.

Please notify this office when any reclamation or revegetation efforts are complete so a joint inspection of the areas can be conducted.

Enclosed is the map you submitted with the "Plan". Thanks for letting us use it for our reports.

We appreciate your cooperation and willingness to comply with the new Surface Management Regulations. If you have any questions on or problems with meeting any of the requirements (including our amendment to your "Plan") for surface management of your mining claims, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

  
Area Manager

Enclosure

EAR# UT-050-81-42

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Georgia-Pacific Corporation

3809 Plan of Operations

UT-056-2P

Prepared By: Rodney P. Lee  
Rodney P. Lee  
Realty Specialist

3/30/81  
Date

Participating Staff: Marian Rivette  
Larry Greenwood

Ray Edmund  
Environmental Coordinator

3/30/81  
Date

J. Frederick Lister  
Area Manager

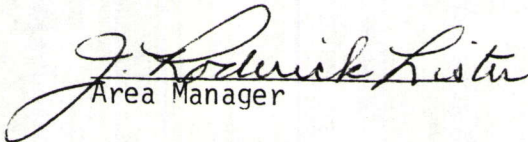
March 30 1981  
Date

DECISION RECORD/RATIONALE

Decision: Approve the Plan of Operations submitted by Georgia-Pacific Corporation for gypsum mining activities conducted on their mining claims (as set forth in 43 CFR Part 3809).

Rationale: Impacts to the environment could be effectively mitigated through implementation of the Mitigating Measures contained in the attached EAR and the reclamation procedures outlined in 43 CFR 3809.

The proposed action and approved mitigating measures would not have a significant environmental effect on the human environment. Therefore, an EIS would not be required for this action.

  
Area Manager

March 30, 1981  
Date

## I. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

Georgia-Pacific Corporation has filed a "Plan of Operations" with BLM for their existing and future gypsum quarrying operations conducted on their mining claims near Sigurd, Utah (see map). This "Plan" is submitted as required by the Surface Management Regulations contained in 43 CFR Part 3809.1-4.

Georgia-Pacific (G-P) has been mining gypsum for several years and processing it in their plant at Sigurd. They estimate that proven reserves are sufficient to supply their current 100,000 tons-per-year production for 20 years. Some of these reserves are located on Federal land, but most are on fee lands.

Their current mining operations include drilling and blasting at the top of a gypsum outcrop and mining a "bench" (having a face height of not more than 20 feet) along the width and length of the deposit. Successive 20 foot benches are quarried until unusable rock and other minerals are encountered. To first develop these quarries, a haul road is constructed to the deposit from a temporary drill road by a bulldozer. Vertical blastholes are then drilled from the top of the deposit and blasted. The broken rock is then loaded into their 35-ton end dump trucks by a front end loader and hauled to the plant for stockpiling and subsequent processing.

Access roads are constructed as necessary to both mine the gypsum and to haul it to the processing plant. Some regrading and improvement work would be required periodically as work progresses and as conditions dictate. Trees, shrubs, and other vegetation is removed during these operations and mixed with unused "spoil" and overburden material.

Where practical, all disturbed material not used will be re-graded and seeded to conform to the existing topography. Although G-P has not attempted any revegetation to date, they plan to work closely with SCS to determine the optimum methods of revegetating disturbed areas. Such areas would be scarified, graded, leveled, seeded, and if necessary, fertilized. Seeding will be done by a rangeland drill during fall months.

Regrading and revegetation would be done concurrently with quarry operations and would be completed within one year after completion of quarrying of a deposit.

## II. ANALYSES OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Adverse impacts resulting from this action would be: (1) road construction, (2) blading of quarry sites, (3) rock blasting, (4) placement and movement of disturbed material not hauled to the processing plant, (5) trash and debris accumulation, and (6) disruption of some livestock grazing and wildlife habitat.

Items # 1, 2, 3, and 4 would create soil disturbance and remove existing vegetation, leaving a permanent scar.

The subject action would not impact any Wilderness Resources. The VRM rating is Class III and IV and would not be changed. There would be no impacts on cultural resources (see attached report).

One plant species, *Townsendia aprica*, is located on two separate areas of the "Plan." This plant is on the list proposed to be added to the Federal List of Threatened and Endangered Plants. (It is BLM policy to treat these "proposed" plants as threatened and endangered). The attached T&E Plant Report identifies the general location of these two areas where *Townsendia aprica* is growing. The Report also makes a recommendation concerning the protection of the plant.

### III. RECOMMENDED MITIGATING MEASURES

The operator would be bound by the following mitigating measures, in addition to those they have listed in the "Plan of Operations" and those reclamation measures required by 43 CFR 3809:

1. All litter, waste, and debris would be disposed of in the nearest waste disposal site.
2. During the fall months, disturbed areas would be seeded with the following seed mix at the rate of 12 pounds per acre:

Indian ricegrass ( <i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i> )	3lb/ac
Western wheatgrass ( <i>Agropyron smithii</i> )	3
Winterfat ( <i>Eurotia lanata</i> )	3
Birchleaf Mtn. Mahogany ( <i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> )	3
TOTAL	12lb/ac.

The seed would be range drilled to a depth not to exceed one-half inch. In areas where drill seeding is not practical, the seed should be broadcast and dragged by appropriate means to effectively cover the seed with soil. All seed would be furnished by Georgia-Pacific Corporation.

3. The operator would consult with BLM concerning their specific mining plans in the two areas identified as containing species of *Townsendia aprica*. This endangered plant would be protected (as recommended in the T&E Report) to prevent it from being destroyed through any mining activities.

### IV. AGENCIES AND PERSONS CONSULTED

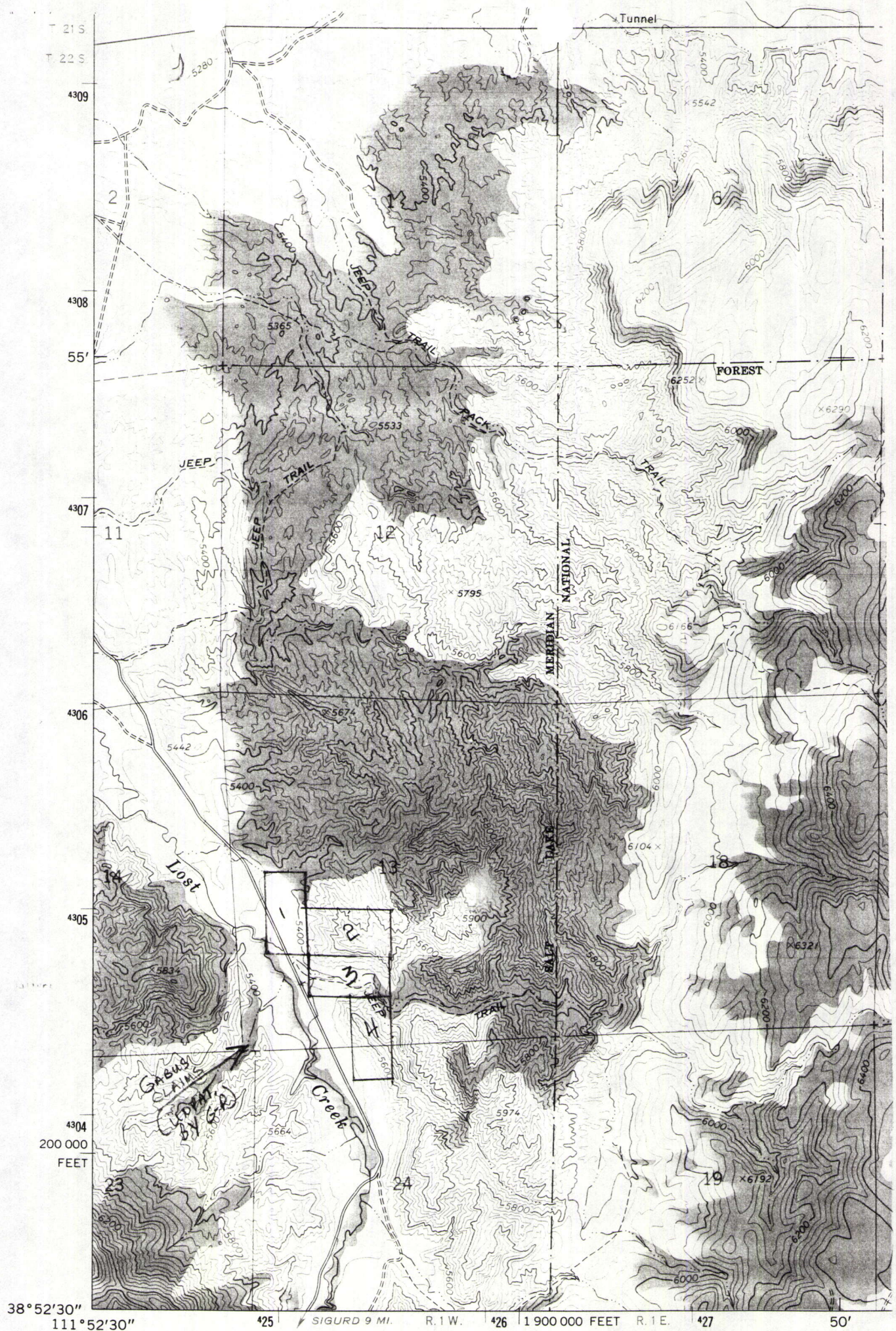
State of Utah  
Georgia-Pacific Corporation

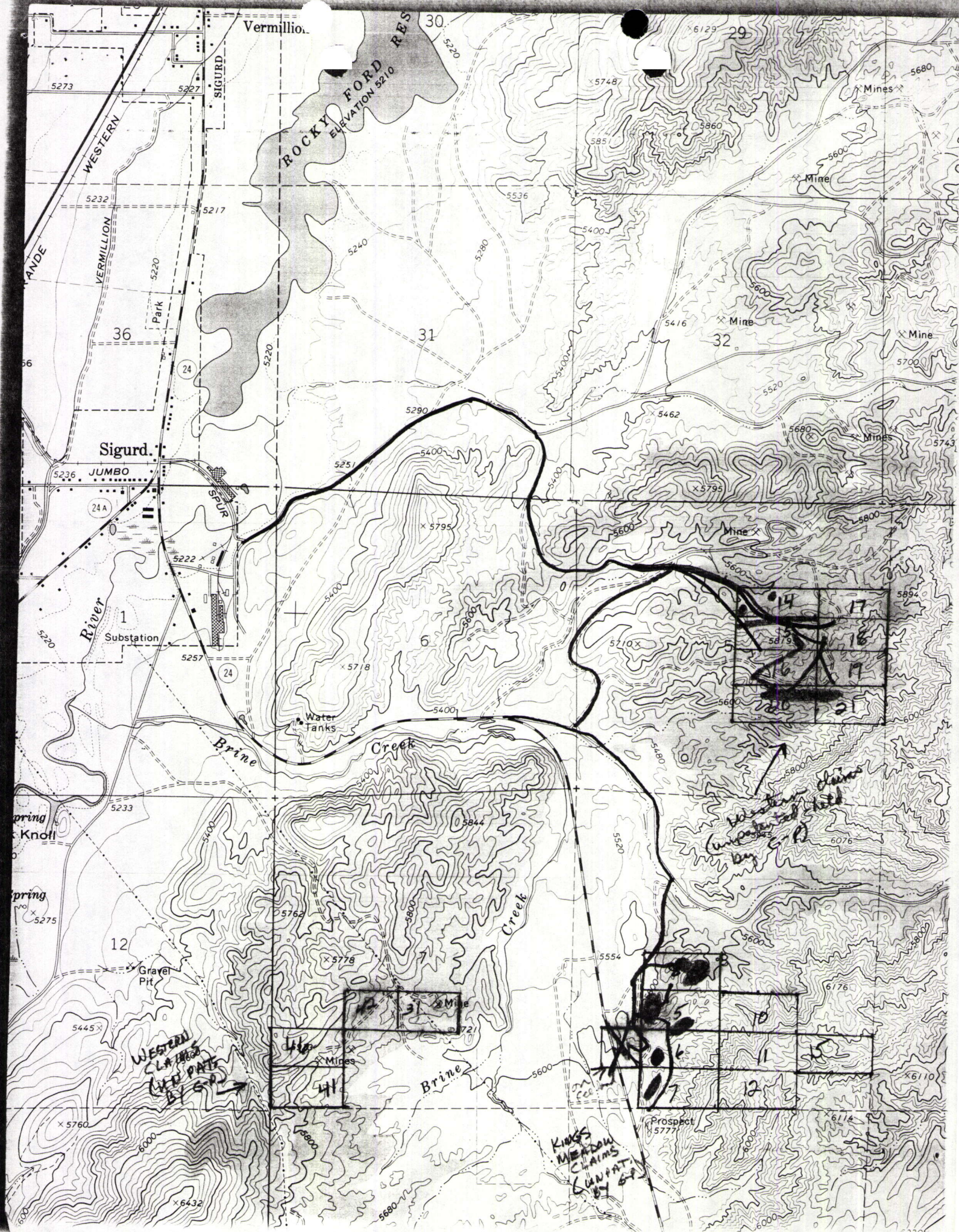
(Note: This is a minimal documentation EAR prepared in accordance with Departmental Manual 516 DM 3.4)

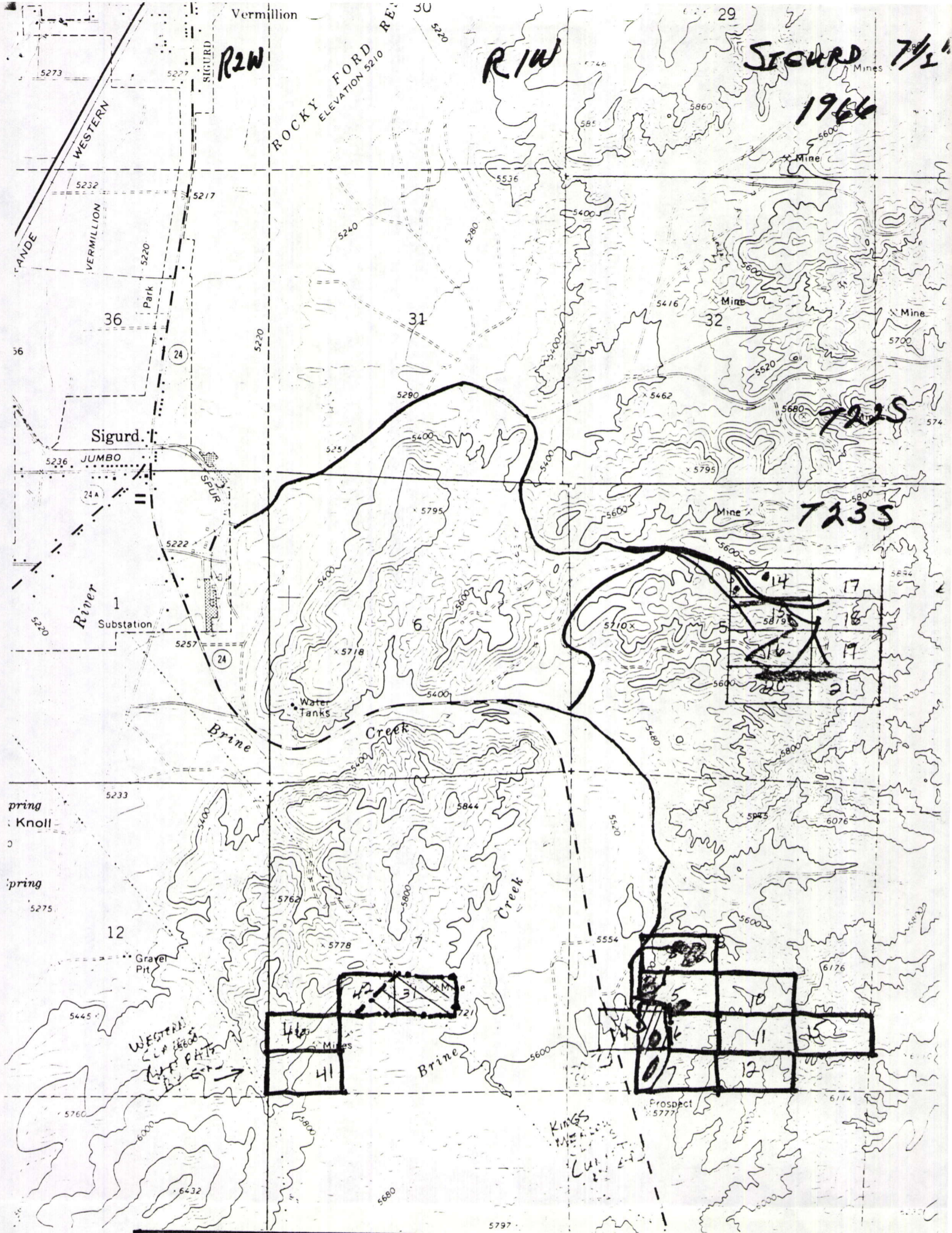
# CHECKLIST OF REQUIRED ELEMENTS FOR EAR

	Not Affected	Affected	Comments
1. Floodplains	X		
2. Wetlands	X		
3. Prime & Unique Farmlands	X		
4. Visual Resource Management	X		
5. Aquifers	X		
6. Rivers & Harbors 404 Permit	X		
7. Paleontological Resources (Mining)	X		
8. A-95 Clearance	X		
9. Threatened and Endangered		X	see attached T+E Species Report
10. Wilderness	X		
11. Archaeology	X		











**LEGEND**

 AREA SURVEYED  
WITHIN MINING  
CLAIMS

 AREA OF  
MINING CLAIM

T22S

